



## FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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### Youth Conference to Take Place this Weekend; Public Invited to Youth Talk Today LIVE!

**Hagåtña, Guam** – This Friday, April 27, 2012, 350 students, educators and adult mentors will gather at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to officially open the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth for Youth Conference. The three-day youth-oriented and –facilitated event entitled, “20:12 Time for Change” will focus on educating students from middle and high school students on positive lifestyle choices that do not involve alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use.

Conference adult chair Cabrini Rivera shares: “This year’s theme ‘20:12 Time for Change’ represents the continuous change and growth the youth go through. These are the catalyst for much of the positive changes seen in the community today.” Rivera encourages the youth members and conference attendees to continue embracing these positive changes, and to BE THE CHANGE that the community needs.

Youth attendees will actively participate in this three-day conference, in both large-group and small-group workshops and discussions. Some examples of workshop options include: Health and Wellness, Decision Making, Bullying Prevention, Drama 101, Money Management, and Improv. Most workshops will be facilitated by the members of Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam (YFYLG), who completed weeks of preparation and training by their adult mentors. Other invited guest presenters include Brant McCreadie, Zumba instructors, representatives from Coast 360 Federal Credit Union, Danielle Dizon (SWAT Girls Dance Performing Group), Guam National Guard – Counterdrug Program, Mark Pachkoski, and Sanctuary, Inc.

During conference breaks, skits from YFYLG will be performed that reinforces strong messages that pertain to each conference day’s theme on Prevention and Early Intervention of Underage Drinking, Suicide, and Substance Abuse. Cultural and professional performers were also invited in providing entertainment – Fusion Dance Group, Inetnon Gef Pa’go, and Just Say No Dance Crew. SM Store, with the partnership of the Miss Universe Guam contestants, will also host a teen-friendly fashion show. Jason Cliff and other members of the Blackfeet Tribe representing the Native Aspirations Project will be in attendance. Cliff will also be performing a Native American traditional dance.

#### Youth Talk Today LIVE!

On Friday, April 27, 2012, radio personality, Kyle Mandapat, and youth hosts Marcel Jardaleza, Caleb Skvaril, and Fabien Rippel will anchor a live episode of **Youth Talk Today!**\* This talk show will be held in conjunction with the youth group’s town hall meeting, a SAMHSA\*-supported event aimed to generate public education and outcomes on the issue of underage drinking. Youth Talk Today LIVE! will be held at the main ballroom from 9:30 to 10:45 A.M. Limited seating will be open to the general public (at no cost) to attend this part of the morning during the first conference day; on a first come, first serve basis. All attendees must sign-in at the Registration Table at the main entrance of the conference venue.

#### Keynote Speakers

The conference keynote speakers are Josephine Keefe from the Nex Perce Tribe, a Native American group in Kamiah, Idaho and Billy Navarrete, a teacher at Carbullido Elementary School, dancer, instructor, and member of the Guam Parkour Association.

A Fine Arts graduate from UCLA, Keefe develops dramatic storytelling workshops for Native American youth in tribal communities in Alaska, Washington and Arizona. For Guam’s youth conference, Keefe will share her experiences with Dramatic Storytelling, as well as exercises and techniques. “A major step toward healing (from issues such as bullying and suicide) for both the youth and their community is to give a voice to stories and encourage storytelling,” Keefe shared. “Through Dramatic Storytelling youth find their voice and celebrate their story.”



Navarrete is a full-time teacher and a Parkour, breakdance, and firedance enthusiast. As a young adult, Navarrete serves as a role model to his peers, colleagues and team members by living a positive lifestyle, dignified against alcohol, tobacco and drugs. It is in his activities and his mentors, such as Guam Parkour Association founder Jason Triplett, that he found and continuously practice positive alternatives to drug use. In his keynote presentation, Navarrete will demonstrate and encourage his audience of these alternatives.

#### **Acknowledgement of Outstanding Participants**

In a press conference scheduled on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am, outstanding schools will be acknowledged for continuously supporting and encouraging their students to attend the Youth for Youth conference. These schools include F.B. Leon Guerrero for garnering the most number of participants at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual HYPE IT UP! 5K event, Oceanview Middle School for registering the highest number of participants to the conference, Marianas High School for registering the highest number of off-island students to the conference, and the Blackfeet Nation from Browning, Montana for their first conference attendance.

#### **Conference Registration**

Conference registration as of Monday, April 23, 2012, is officially closed. No new on-site registrations will be accepted at the days of the conference. All pre-registered students must sign in on the first day with their designated group chaperone.

#### **Substance Abuse Prevention Dance**

On Saturday, April 28, 2012, a youth dance will be hosted by the youth group, celebrating a substance abuse-free lifestyle! All registered participants may attend the dance. Non-registered youth are invited to attend for a cover charge of \$5.00 per person. This invitation is open to only middle and high school students. The Substance Abuse Prevention Youth Dance will be held at the Hyatt's main ballroom, from 6:00 – 10:00 PM.

For more information on the 20:12 Time for Change 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth for Youth Conference, contact the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse – PEACE office at 477-9079~83 or visit [www.peaceguam.org](http://www.peaceguam.org).

\*end\*

#### **Photos:**



(YFYchairs.jpg)

Pictured here are the chairpersons for the 20:12 Time for Change Youth for Youth Conference. From L-R: Jerick Cruz (Youth Co-Chair), Cabrini Rivera (Adult Co-chair), Marlijo Serineo (Youth Co-chair)



(YFYsubcom.jpg) The **20:12 Time for Change Youth for Youth Conference** is youth-oriented and youth-led. Pictured here are members and advisors of Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam, who coordinated the planning and implementation of the conference.



(YFYfacilitators.jpg)

Holding up the Youth “I love you” sign, pictured here are members of Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam after the completion of their facilitator training. Most workshops at the **20:12 Time for Change Youth for Youth Conference** will be youth-led.

**Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam** is a non-profit, community-based, youth-centered, youth-driven drug prevention program for teens between the ages of 11 and 17. Strong youth involvement is the asset of this organization. The foundation upon which YFY is built in is the belief that Guam’s youth are leaders of today and have much to contribute towards making positive changes in their families, schools and village communities. These teens are actively involved in prevention program development, implementation and evaluation. Guam’s youth possesses relevant knowledge and cultural experiences, strength and character, and the ability to effectively lead and influence their peers to take personal responsibility for living their lives, healthy and drug-free.

**SAMHSA-funded Town Hall Meetings** are a national trend where community members are directly involved in preventing underage drinking. This movement of education, advocacy and action mobilizes all sectors of the community in alcohol abuse prevention. To celebrate April as the National Alcohol Awareness Month, select community groups – Southern Christian Academy, St. Jude Thaddeus Church confirmation class, Astumbo Middle School Parent Teacher Organization, UOG Student Health Services Office and Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam – is conducting local town hall meetings in an effort to raise our community’s awareness about alcohol use and abuse, and strategies to prevent underage drinking.

**Youth Talk Today!** is a youth-led, youth-oriented talk show, hosted by select members of Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam. This two-hour talk show discusses social issues that concerns Guam’s youth. Youth Talk Today! airs every other Saturday from 6pm – 8pm on Power98 and Fox6.